

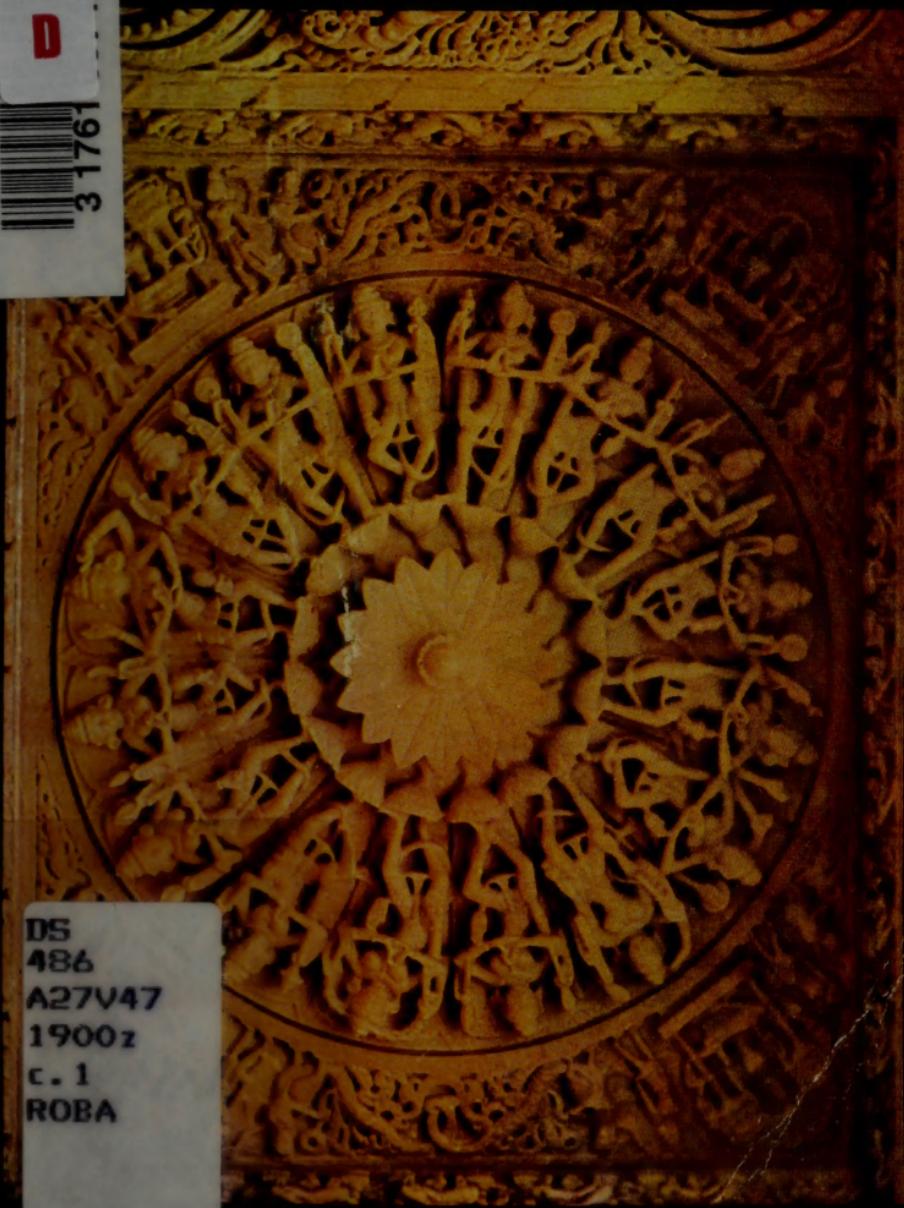
# MOUNT ABU



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# Mt. Abu

THE CITY OF SUN-SET

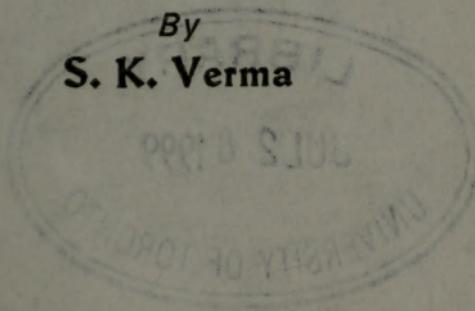


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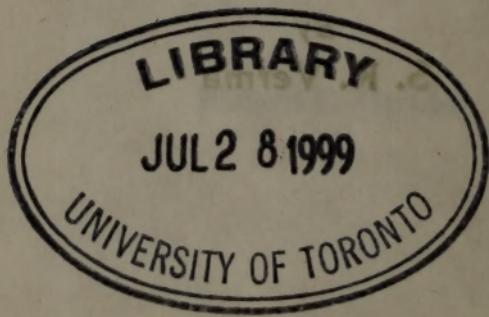
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## **IMPORTANT**

The factual information given in this book is liable to change from time to time, tourists are requested to contact nearest tourist information bureau for latest information

# Mount Abu

The City of Sun set

Mount Abu-literally an oasis in the arid province of the historic Rajasthan, appears as a dreamland in this desert region. It is the most important place for tourists in Rajasthan during summers(March-July). It is better known for its world famous Dilwara Temples, a dream in marbles. Flanked by vast dry desert of Marwar, Mount Abu reveals itself as an exhilarating dreamland with fresh wholesome environs envigorating the joys of life. The salubrious atmosphere, charming scenery and the treasures of art and nature contended in Mount Abu depict it as a Gem spot in the historic land of Rajasthan-the abode of princes.

Mount Abu, thought distinctly separated from, is a part of, the Aravali hill ranges and is in South West of Rajasthan under the Sirohi district, it lies in the  $24^{\circ}36' N$  longitude and  $72^{\circ}45' E$  latitude, at 1290 meters abve m.s.l. At the base it is some 30 km. long by 12 km. wide, with a plateau of 16 km. in length and 3 to 6 km. in width. The scenic plateau, continuously tantalized by cool, fresh air, supports a salubrious climate. A number of dainty beauty spots, places of archival and religious value, rich fauna and flora as well as valued minerals make it a place of choice for all types of visitors. It is the only hill station in Rajasthan and draws the majority of tourists on account of its unique blend of heroic history of Rajputana with all the charms of a hill station.

The important summits of the Mount Abu are Park hill (4562' above m. s. l.), Bhigolia hill (4553'), Palanpur point (4493'), Adhar Devi (4296'), Craigs point (4208'), Sunset point (3880') and the Guru Shikhar (5653') Guru Shikhar is the highest point between Himalayas in the North and Neel Giri in the South.

The mineral composition of Mount Abu is largely of granite, with blends of quartz, greenstone schist, gneiss and rarely also mica and limestone. Two ancient marble mines-Vansvall in the Achalgarh area and Jariwao at Utraj village are said to have been the feeders for the famous Dilwara temples.

Minor tremors of earthquake are sometimes experienced. Tremors are said to have been a normal feature in ancient times, the last severe being in the years 1825 and 1848 A. D.

Abu has a variety of dense flora and fauna. Besides common trees and shrubs characteristic of the country, *Grevellia*, pine, eucalyptus, *Bauhinia*, *Gerenium*, *Strobilanthes*, and persian liliac add the grandeur of the scenery, to which the scintilating aroma is contributed by rose, jasmine, Champa and a variety of them all. The wild beauty of the flame of the forest Gulmohar, Jacaranda, Silver oak, *Nerium*, Bamboo, orchids and various creepers-all present before the visitor a profuse world of colour and envigorating charisma. Common beasts of the woods are the black faced langoor, Sloth Bear, deer, stag, boar etc. Chirping birds-starlings, myna, cuckoo, peacock, carpenter

and weaver nest here, Humming bumble bees and honey bees, frolic butterflies and creepy reptiles make Abu a world of life revealed in its vivid colours to a keen observer. Apiculture has already shown a promise here and potentials of sericulture are also under study.

Tourist season is from March to July and September to November Visitors from all parts of the country and abroad make Abu an abode of pleasure, full of glory and gaiety. Summers are pleasant and cool, mildly harassed by sweeping breeze carrying ardour of lush vegetation and its ponderous bloom. The rainy season, with foggy purlieus and misty surrounding gives one the sublime effect of Mount Abu. Winters grow gradually cooler, verdour sprouting it is multicoloured flowers and chills creep in by December.

Abu invites, it calls, and draws not only tourists and excursionists, but also faunists and florists for surveillance and study, historians and archeologists for exploration, artists to instil their skill on the canvass and pilgrims and meditators in spiritual quest. Mount Abu alone wins the heart of all and embraces all.



# A lluring B eauteous U nforgettable

# MOUNT ABU

## A brief retrospect

Many beliefs and myths about the origin of Mount Abu trace it as old as Himalayas or even older. The legend holds it to be the seat of penance of Sage Vashishtha. At that time the mount was not here but instead a deep ditch existed. Into it once fell Nandini, the Kamdhenu (Omnific) cow. Saraswati filled the abyss with one of her rivulets to rescue Nandini who swam out. Sage Vashishtha prayed to Lord Shiva to cover the deep abyss and eliminate chances of further mishaps. At the instigation of Lord Shiva, Nandivardnan coverd the abyss and here created a range of 'Arbuda' hills-known today as Mount Abu. It is also told that Abu was formerly uncalm, as also witnessed by a history of earthquakes in the past and Lord Shiva made it stable with the thrust of one Leg. The imprint of Shiva Foot is now edified in the famous Achaleshwar temple.

This much the myth, now let us tread on the evidential history Pliny. (in 65 A. D.) has quoted Magasthanese, the Greek delegate to the court of Emperor Chandragupta as having called Mount Abu the 'Mons Capitalia' (Mountain of the Capital punishment). The famous Chinese traveller Huen Tsang (629-645 A. D.) also referred Abu in his travels.

Parmars ruled Abu upto the 13th Century. The mighty Parmar reign extended from Narbada in South



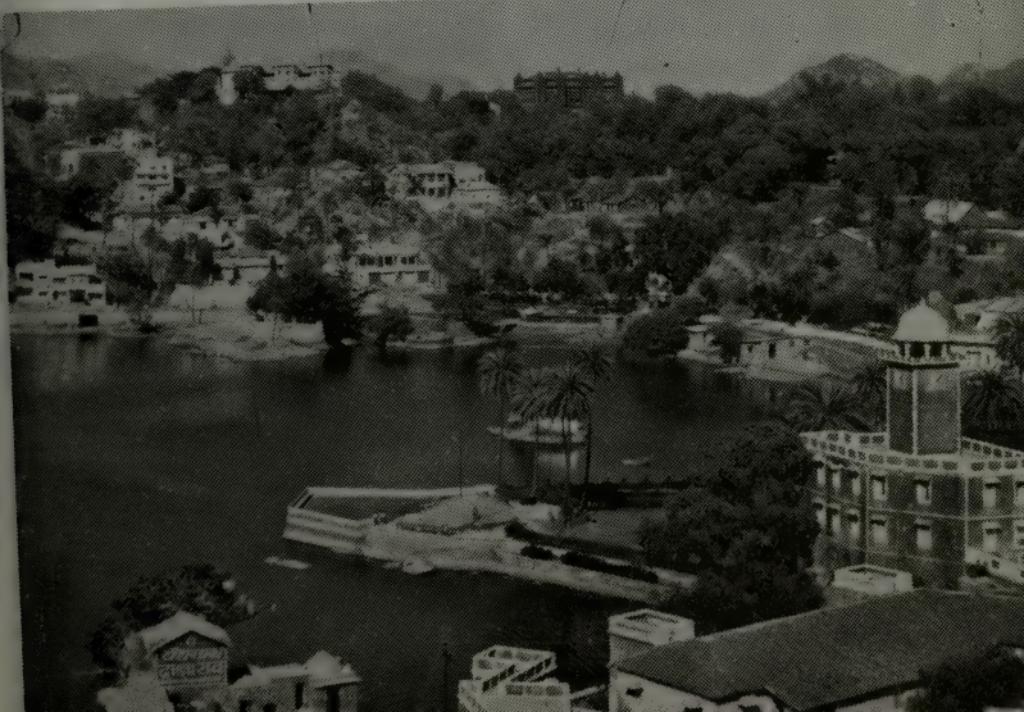
मेढ़क चट्टान  
Toad Rock

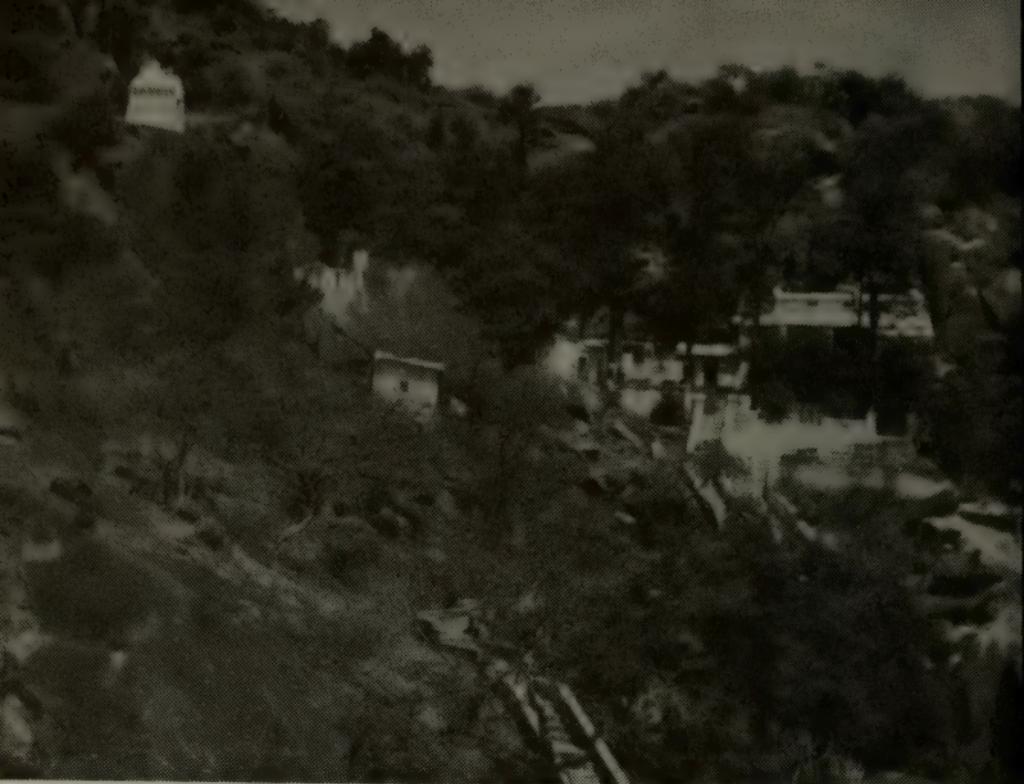


माउन्ट आबू  
Mount Abu



नक्खी झील  
Nakhi Lake





अधर देवी  
Adhar Devi



माउन्ट आबू  
Mount Abu

ट्रेवल ताल  
Travel Tal



to Amarkot in West (now in Pakistan) so much so that it used to be told 'The World is for Parmars'. The last king in this dynasty was Dhara Varsh (1200-1226 A. D.) whereafter Deora Chauhans, the old rivalries of Parmars overpowered them by deceit. The Deora Chauhan rule on Abu was founded by Rao Lumba and the capital was shifted to Sirohi in 1405 A. D. Maharana Kumbha of Mewar had for sometime taken over Abu under his control but Rao Lakha recaptured it from him.

The value of Mount Abu as an important hill station salubrious for convalescent European soldiers came to be known after its literal 'discovery' by Col. James Todd in June 1822.

The British well apprehended the importance of Mount Abu. In 1845 they purchased a piece of land for a Sanitorium from Rao Shiv Singh. Later it was turned into the Headquarters of the British Representative of Rajputana. Eventually in 1917, the British Government took Mount Abu on a permanent lease from the Sirohi Maharao Keshri Singh at Rs.27000 per annum. The lease was revoked in July 1947 before independence.

After independence, Mount Abu was merged with the state of Bombay under Banaskantha district. As a matter of fact it was a part of Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan pursued the matter with the Central Government. Finally, Abu was resurrected to Rajasthan befitting its glorious history and culture on Nov. 1, 1956 as a result of decision of the States Reorganization Commission.

## THE TOURIST DREAMLAND

# A B U

Mount Abu is approached by a motorable road from Abu Road Railway station of Western Railway meter gauge line on Delhi--Ahmedabad route Abu Road station is 186 km. from Ahmedabad. Regular buses ply from Abu Road station to Mt. Abu, 28 km.

Regular bus services are also available from Udaipur, Ranakpur, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bhilwara, and Sirohi in Rajasthan Buses also ply from Mount Abu to places of importance like Achalgarh, Dilwara, Ambaji etc. Taxi services for and from all important places are also available.

Mount Abu comes off, not as a dream of cool fascinating imagination aside vast arid desert but as an ecstatic revelation of a reality. it is a most genial place for the waary, full of alacrity and thrilling cheer for the fun seeker with dainty beauty spots and with pious, sacred gravity and serenity for the meditators. philosophers poets and artists.

The serpentine, elevating road leading to Mount Abu with refreshing breeze, high up peaks against the steep deep ditches and valley, rising pine and silver oaks in adornment with various flowering shrubs and trees, an occasional bewildered animal suddenly running across the road into the bushes, the chirping welcome given by singing or calling birds with graceful accost of peacocks-these all are captivating.

Hundreds of thousands of tourists, students, scientists, writers, pilgrims, philanthropists and convalescents pour in at Mount Abu to feel the grandeur of nature.

## Places of Interest

### Nakhi Lake :

This small but magnificent lake is so called after the belief that Gods dug it out with their nails (Nakh). Obviously, therefore, it is also a holy place for Hindu pilgrims. The lake has picturesque environs of rows of tall, beautiful trees and hills all around it. It is studded with small islets, beauty spots all around like Toad Rock, Gandhi Garden, Raghu Nathji temple, etc.

### Gandhi Garden :

Abu Municipal corporation developed this garden in 1953. Beautiful flower beds and lawns add to the grace of Nakhi lake. Herefrom the boats and Shikara are available for boating in the lake.

### Raghunathji Temple :

This elegant temple lies at the South western banks of Nakhi Lake. The idol was installed in 14th century by the famous Vaishnav preacher Swami Ramanand. In the rear there is Ramakund pond and some caves. Swami Dayanand, founder of Arya Samaj, is believed to have meditated in Rama cave of these during 1852-54.

### **Toad Rock :**

Weathering of rocks have given added beauty to Mount Abu, in that strikingly peculiar shapes have emerged therein in the course of times. As such protrusion, overhanging the South of Nakhi Lake is the fomous Toad Rock. Its shape resembles a giant toad overlooking the lake. Naturally, most tourists pose before it.

### **Nun Rock :**

This is another attractive rock, 12 ft. high near the tennis court of Rajputana club. It simulates a veiled nun, with hands folded in prayer. Some more such natural rocks are nandi ( Bull ) rock, Bull dog rock, Camel rock, etc.

### **Hanuman Temple :**

It is aside the road 1.5 km. before Mount Abu and enshrines an elgant 10' high statue of Hanuman ( Entellus ) carrying Rama and Laxman over the shoulders. The Ashram accommodates meditators and pilgrims. Herefrom at a decline of about 5 km. is the Gaumukh.

### **Gaumukh :**

This water spring flowing out of a stone cow-head is some 700 steps down the Hanuman temple and is perennial. Several statues of various deities and epitaphs are here. Nearby is the Vashishtha Ashram, hermitage of Sagve Vashishtha, tutelary Guru of Ramaynic Dashrath and his sons. Statues of

Vashishtha, his consort Arundhati, omnific cow Kamdhenu and Ram and Laxman are there. A regarded fair in *Ashadha month Purnima* ( Full-Moon day ) is held here. Pataleshwar Mahadev is a Shiv temple near Vashishtha Ashram.

### **Agni-Kund**

The water flowing from Gaumukh forms small tank called Agin Kund. It is a very Holy and probably the most ancient place here, said to be the place of origin of the four Kshatriya clans-Chauhan, Parmar, Parihar and Solanki. The place *Agni Kund* means a fire pit and hence the four clans *Agni Kula*.

Some more ancient places worth a visit here are Vyas tirth (  $\frac{3}{4}$  km. from Vashishtha Ashram ), *Nag Tirtha* ( South-west of Vashishtha Ashram ) with a statue of Arbuda Nag, Gautam Ashram ( 7 km. from Vashishta Ashram in dense forests with beautiful statues of Lord Vishnu, Sage Gautam and his consort Ahilya. *Jamdagnti Ashram* with a perennial spring is in the East of Gaumukh.

### **Baylay's Walk**

The beautiful path from Vishram Ghat to the Sunset point, embracing Rama Kund, Toad rock and Hathi Gupha around Nakhi lake passes through the pretty thick forests. It is named after Col. Baylay who discovered it and is of some 5 km. stretch.

### **Sun Set Point :**

The most scenic scene in Mount Abu is to watch

the setting sun from this point. An ineffably spectacular view of the setting sun like a sinking fireball fills the onlookers with a fascinating joy. The sun-set point is the edge of the hill with steep hundreds of feet down to distant valleys. Seats and platforms for visitors have been provided here.

#### **Palanpur Point :**

This is about 3 km. East of Bus stand on a small hill where from one can have a lovely view of the city of Palanpur without the aid of binoculars on a clear day. Craigs Point is another such point for panoramic views of valley as seen from sun set point or Palanpur point.

#### **Anadra Point :**

The place, named after the village Anadra nearby, is the old gate-way to Abu. Herefrom also the magnificent grandeur of the setting sun can be witnessed. It is also called Honeymoon point.

#### **Ganesh Temple :**

This interesting temple is near Anadra point and commands the visit of a sizeable number of devotees, particularly on Ganesh-chaturthi, the day of Lord Ganesh (Elephantine god).

#### **Museum & Art Gallery :**

The museum contains a collection of a rare pieces of art, sculpture and images of deities.

### **Adhar Devi or Arbuda Devi temple :**

The temple of Arbuda Devi is on a 4220 ft. high hill and is approached by covering a flight of 450 steps. It is  $\frac{3}{4}$  km. from the town. Arbuda is the tutelary deity of Mount Abu and the temple is very ancient. The entrance of the temple is very narrow and one can seek entry only in a sitting posture. Of course a captivating view of the town the hill is seen from here.

### **Doodh Boari :**

Milk-well is a small well near the base of the Adhar devi hill. It contains turbid white water believed to be milk in the past for use by saints and gods.

### **Karodidhwaj :**

This famous ancient temple is dedicated to Sun God and is some 5 km. from Anadra Village and 3 km. from the Sun-set point.

### **Devangan :**

This remote place is about 12 km. from Karodidhwaj and the name implies abode of gods. Several temples with ancient but mutilated sculptures and statues amidst the bamboo forests stand here. In one of the temples a *Vishnu* image is there while in others are Narsingha (Loin incarnation of Lord Vishnu). Varah (Boar incarnation). Veerbhadra (a sergeant of Lord Shiv), Maheshwari, Chamunda, Varahi, Veishnavi and other forms of deities etc.

### **Kodra Dam :**

It is a nice picnic spot giving an extensive an look to

the valleys and itself having magnificent surroundings. It is at 4147 ft. above m. s. l. and has been built for the water supply to Abu. The capacity of the dam is 940 million gallons.

### Lakh Chauras :

It is a comely place showing foot imprints of various forms of animal life on rocks. The origin of the imprints is obscure but it is believed that these depict the Hindu belief of 84 lac forms of life and hence called Lakh Chaurasi.

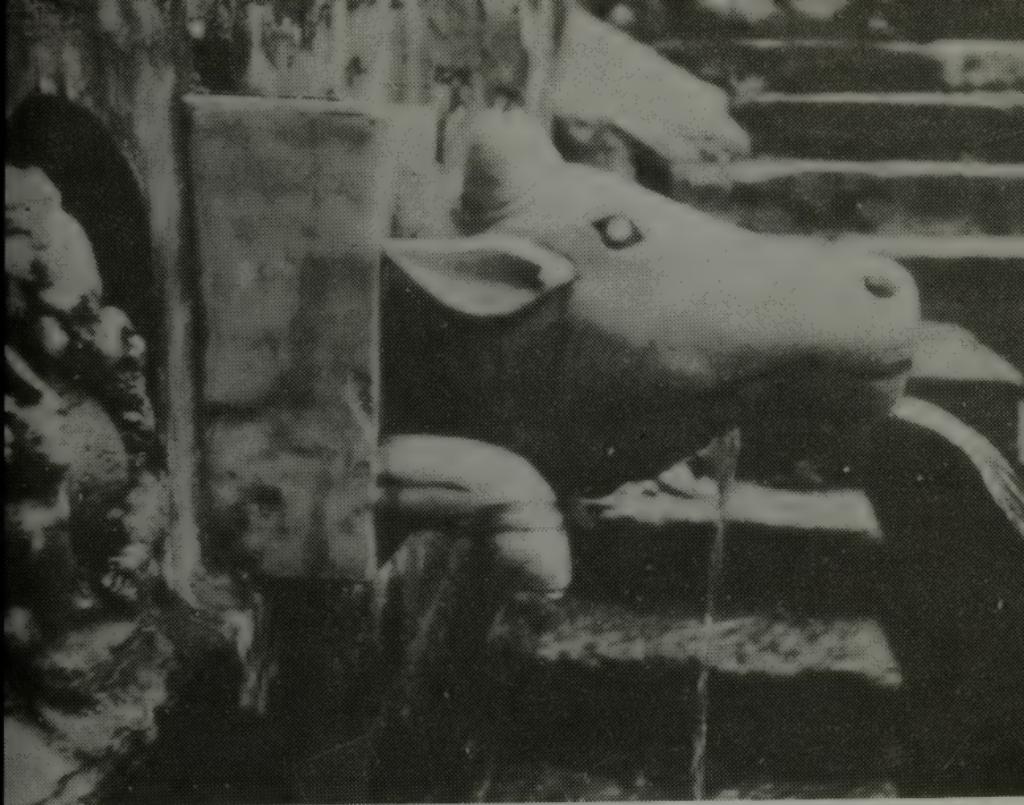


## Dilwara Temples

The world famous Dijwara temples in the village of same name are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  km. from the post office. These delicately carved exquisite temples in marble are of 11th and 12th centuries and have rightly been called 'a dream in marble' on account of their unbelievably unbelievable perfection of architect and fine designs.

Dilwara temples are a composite cluster of 5 temples, the first two being the most popular on account of exuberant ornamentation and details of marble carvings :

1. Vimal Vasahi (Adinath temple)
2. Loon Vasahi (Neminath temple)
3. Rishabh Deoji (Pittalhar temple)
4. Parshwa Nathji (Chaumukhaji)
5. Mahavir Swami



गौमुख कुण्ड  
Gaumukh Kund

माउन्ट आबू  
Mount Abu

गुरु शीखर  
Guru Shikhar



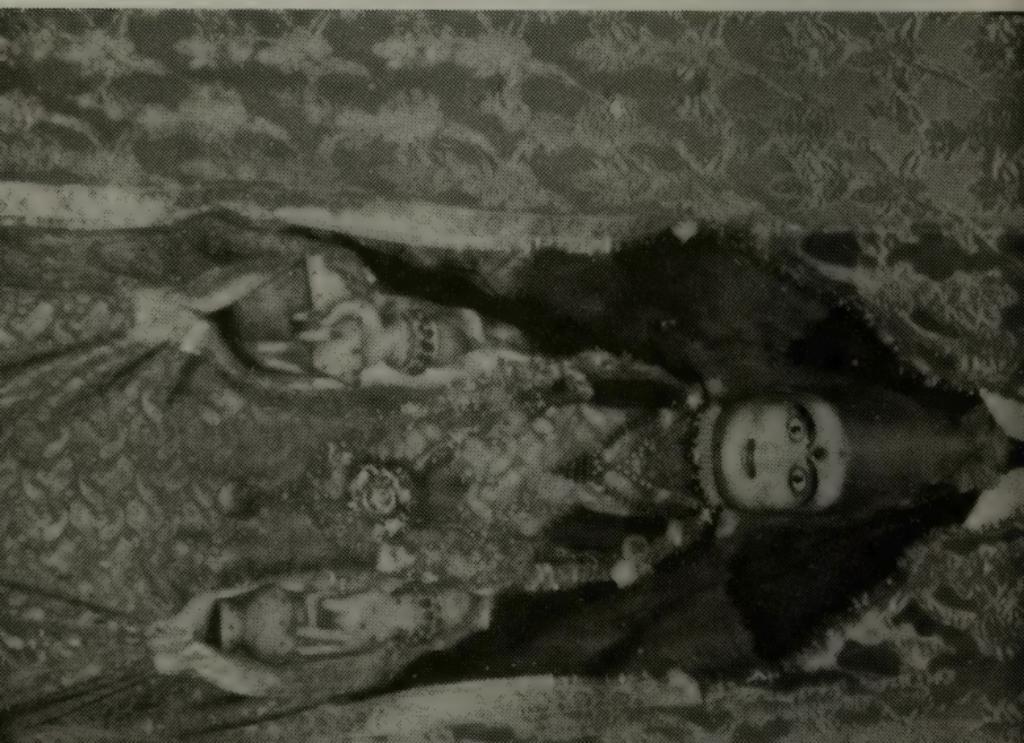


सूर्योस्त का दृश्य  
Sunset Point



माउन्ट आबू  
Mount Abu

कुंवारी कन्या का मन्दिर  
↓ Kunwari Kanya



## **Vimal Vasahi :**

The Vimal Vashi temple dedicated to Lord Adlnath, the first Jain tirthankar (deified saint) was built by and called after Vimal Shah, a minister of King Bhim Dev of Gujrat in 1031 A. D. It is said to have been completed in 14 years by 1500 artisans and 1200 labourers at a cost of Rupees 18.53 million. A great deal of the art treasure of the temples were destroyed by the muslim invaders. Some renovations were done in 1327 A. D. by two donors Lull and Beejad but not of the perfection of the original master-piece work.

The entire temple with its immaculate carvings and harmonious ornamentation gives the fascination of an artful dream in marble world and it appears as if the skilful artists generously emnated their flow of art to create a superb moulded-marble world. The exterior of the temple is so simple that visitor after entry is entranced spellbound at the majestic grandeur of art world suddenly disclosed before him. In front of the main shrine is the most attractive part Rangmandap (ornamented auditorium) or main portico. It is supported on 48 intently carved pillars, each connected with the other with wavy arcades in rythmic pattern. Eight central pillars form an octagon for the octagonal dome out side the main shrine. The interior of the dome is intricately carved out into eleven concentric and projecting rings giving it a pendant form. It is exquisitely decorated with delicately carved human and animal effigies so much so that they seem to come to life any moment. Details of soldiers proce-

ssions, courts, fight scene of Bharat-Bahubali, Ayo-dhya and Takshshila cities, deities etc. all need a keen approbation.

The entire structure is surrounded by an oblong courtyard with 52 small cellar pagodas enshrining various Jain tirthankars, saints and deities. In one of the pagodas is the statue of Ambaji, tutelary deity of Vimal Shah. It is known to be even older than the main temple itself. In front of each pagoda is a portico with a carved roof and the cells are screened by a double arcade of carved pillars.

On the ceiling of the corridor are carved the various mythical scenes like Kaliya marden (serpent overpowering) by Lord Krishna, Narsingh Avtar (Lionic incarnation), Hiranyakashyap kill, Panchkalyanak, Nem-nath, Swan-seated Sarswati (Goddess of wisdom), Elephant seated Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth), swan and peacock seated Vidhyadhar (angels of wisdom) etc.

Near the entrance of Vimal Vasahi temple is the **Hasti Shala** (Elephants room) in which ten marble elephants are there. On the door is a full size statue of Vimal Shah riding a horse.

### **Loon Vasahi :**

Two brothers, Vastupal and Tejpal, ministers of the Gujurat King Veer Dhawan, built this temple in the memory of their deceased eldest brother Looniga in the year 1231. Temple is dedicated to Lord Neminath.

Although the temple is a little smaller than Vimal Vasahi and was built at a cost of Rs. 125.3 million only, it is far more in perfection and refinement than Vimal Vasahi temple.

The pattern followed is simillar but the details are varied and more vivid. At the entrance are two projecting niches on either lateral aspects built by the wife of Tej Pal at her own. The simple structures are in line with the serene perfection of marble chiselling viewed in the entire temple, the delicacy having attributed translucency to the fine sheets of marble.

The Hastī Shala of this temple is greater than that of Vimal Vasahi and also has ten sections, each with a marble elephant, statues of Vastupal, Tejpal, their wives or relatives. Amid the elephants stands a model three-storeyed temple with black statue of Chaumukhaji.

The cellar pagodas, dome, pillars etc. are all delectably detailed in carvings including floral designs, animals, birds and also various activities of life like commerce, navigation, pastures, mythical scenes, and saints etc. On the arcades ornamented images of celestial angels and deities are there. The sculpture of the temple has its unique features-beauty with serenity, magnificence with perfection and vivid with proportions and continuity. The architect Shobhan Deo could get it completed in 7 years. The colossal marble statue of Neminath in the main shrine studded with jewels was enshrined in 1343 A. D. by Saint Vijaisen Sureeji.

### **Rishabh Deoji :**

This temple is also called Pittalhar temple as it is enshrining a massive brass statue of about 4.32 quintal weight. It was built in the 14th century by Bhima Shah but the installation of statue was got done by Sunder and Nanda, ministers of Sultan Mohammed Begda of Ahmedabad.

### **Chaumukhaji or Parshwanath temple :**

The temple is so called because it is enshrined with a four faced statute of Lord Parshwanath. It is also sometimes called Khartar Vasahi after the belief that it was built by some *Shrawak* ( Jain devotee ) of Khartargachchh. The popular saying however, is that sculpturists and artisans of the Dilwara temples built this three storeyed temple out of their dedication to art in their spare time, without asking for any remuneration. The dating of the temple is uncertain but none-the-less it has befitting refinement of Dilwara temples' aesthetic art as seen in the attractive statues and designs.

The Mahaveer temple near the Chaumukha temple is a small one and besides this also, some more temples are there. There are four famous pagodas, three with Jain statues and one is enshrined with goddess Ambaji. These are called *Char Toonk* of Girnar.

### **Kunwari Kanya and Rasia – Balam Temple :**

Kunwari Kanya (Virgin's) temple is so known for the famous love-story told about this temple. A *Valmik*



शंखेश्वरी देवी  
Shankeshwari

देलवाड़ा मन्दिर  
Dilwara

मुख्य मण्डप  
Main Hall



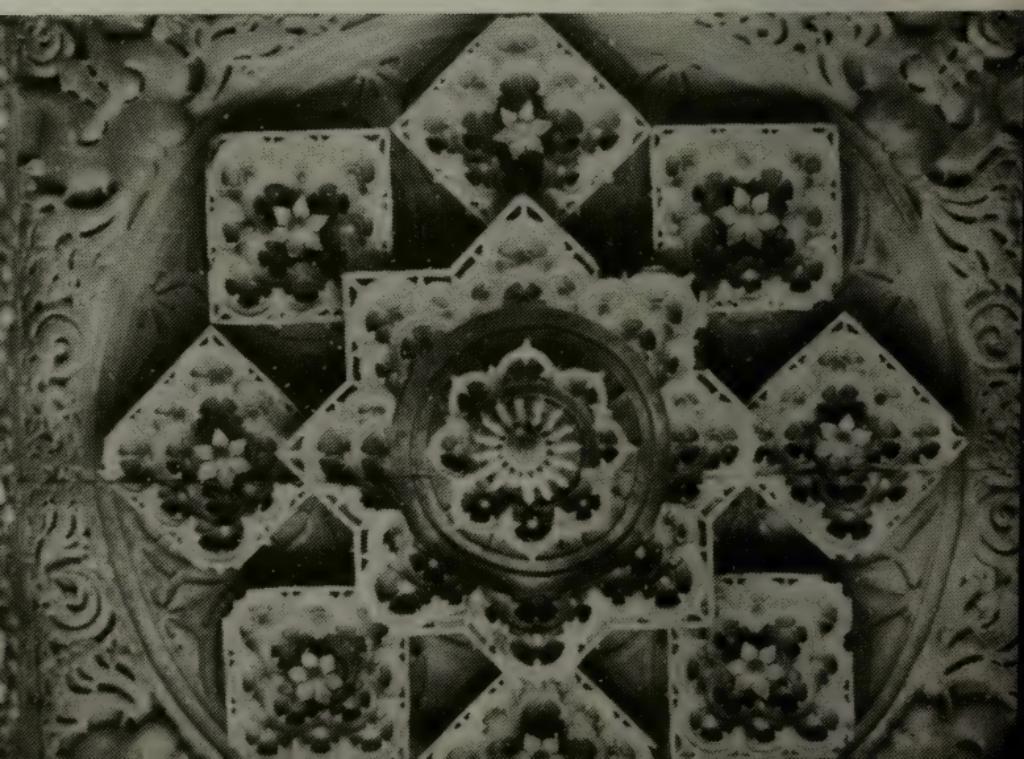


गुम्बद  
Main Dome



देलवाड़ा मन्दिर  
Dilwara

नकाशीयुक्त छत  
Carved Roof



or *Rishi* (Sage) referred locally as Rasia Balam (the affectionate lover) once happened to be passionately in love of a virgin but the mother of the girl was reluctant. The sage persuaded and urged insistently. Finally, the reluctant mother put a condition that if a good road from the hill top down to the plains could be prepared overnight by the sage, she would give her consent and marry her daughter with Valmik. Supernatural powers are said to have assisted the sage in his task so much so that completion of the project appeared inevitable long before dawn. The reluctant and resourceful mother of the girl now discouraged the sage by a deceitful machination. She crowed like a cock, thus false signalling for morning. In dismay the sage gave up the work still pending a lot, but he became infuriated when later he comprehended the trick. Gods turned the mother and daughter into stone stills. The sage, desparate totally, mutilated in wrath the figure of mother and installed his own statue opposite his lover. That girl is todays, Virgin deity of the temple and in its direct front is that of sage, eye to eye before his beloved. The statue of mother, said to have been the target of curse and stone throwing of all whosoever knew of the tale, is now nowhere. The sage still holds the attraction to this ancient temple.

Near the temple of Rasia Balam are some caves known as Nal Cave, Pandava Cave and Bheem Cave respectively. The names suggest that King Nal after having got, ruined by gambling, and similarly the five Pandavas also, passed a part of their exile period around Abu.

Several remote and ancient places of pilgrim are also here notably, the *Pangu tirtha* ( believed to bless the lame or persons having lost locomotory powers ). *Agni tirtha* with a phallic Shiva idol in a cave and *Pindarak tirtha* near a small tank and named after a Brahmin originally ignorant but turned a *Brahm-Gyani* by the blessings of Shiva and his consort Parvati.

#### **Trevar's Lake :**

This scenic tank is about 1.2 km. North of Dilwara and was originally built for water supply to Mount Abu. It is now a renowned picnic spot. A sanctuary for animals has been developed here and a rest house is also afforded.

#### **Jain Temple :**

This *digambar* Jain temple is on a little elevation on the road going to Achalgarh and is a fairly old temple. A good inn is around the temple.

#### **Satsang Ashram :**

This is a Shiva temple and is also called Lai Mandir. This Ashram was built in 1948 by Swami Shraddhanand.

#### **Neelkantha Mahadeo Temple :**

This is an old Shiva temple in an isoly set up on Dilwara road from Mount Abu and one may visit it for the Colossal phallic image enshrined in this temple, rarely seen elsewhere.



# Achalgarh & others

A road from Dilwara further leads to Achalgarh, the famous fort of Mount Abu. It is about 8 km. from Abu and has around it several important Hindu and Jain temples and places of natural beauty. Buses ply regularly from Mount Abu and Dilwara.

## Achaleshwar Mahadeo :

Achaleshwar Shiv temple is said to be the oldest in Abu. Unlike other Shiv temples, there is no image or phallus of Shiv here but instead a cavity or hole in the ground is there, believed to be the mark of toe of Lord Shiva (hence also called the Toe temple). Lord Shiv is believed to have thrust the 'toe here to make the uncalm Abu, stable. The anecdote also further tells the thrust was so forcible that the resultant hole is as far deep as to reach the *Paataal* (central core of the earth). The hole is hence also called 'Brahm Khadd'. In front of the temple is the statue of deity Parvati, consort of Lord Shiva and a large brass idol of Nandi. The Nondi - bull stae shows signs of molestation attempted by Mohammed Begda of Ahmedabad in search of treasures.

## Mandakini Kund :

It is a large tank near Achaleshwar Mahadeo and is about 900' × 240'. On the northern aspects of this *Kund* are the famous three buffaloes 'Teen Paade' in life size statues and aside them the impressive statue

of Parmar King Adipal with a bow in his hands. It is said that *Mandakini kund* was a reservoir of butter-oil in ancient times for use in Yagyas performed by sages. Three demons in the form of buffaloes always stole away butter-oil from the tank in night time and at the request of the sages, King Adipal, the brave Parmar, killed all the three by one single arrow. The sage established the statues of the three buffaloes and King Adipal as a warning signal for other demons not to further attempt such disturbances.

### **Samadhi of Mansingh :**

The Maharao of Sirohi was murdered by some Rajput at Mount Abu and his *Chhatri* (cenotaph) is near the Mandakini Kund. His five queens had also become *Sati* with the king. In the Sarneshwar shiv temple, the statues of queens and the king praying the Lord are there.

### **Fort Achalgarh :**

From Achaleshwar temple a passage in the South leads to the impressive Achalgarh fort on a 4000 feet high hill. The fort was primarily built by a Parmar King but is said to have been renovated by Maharana Kumbha of Mewar in the year 1452.

The entrance gates to the fort are namely, Ganesh Pol (the first) and Hanuman Pol (the second gate). Herefrom start the stairs to fort and nearby stand *Kapoor sagar* tank and the *Lakshminarayan* temple. After the flight of stairs come Champa Pol (the

third gate ) and *Bhairav Pol* ( the fourth gate ). A passage from here goes to the famous and worth seeing Jain temples of Achalgarh and the other to the original old portions of the fort.

The main aspects of the fort to seen are the granaries and Okha palace named after the queen Okha of Maharana Kumbha. The panoramic view of the environs from the top of the fort are also grand.

#### **Bhart-Hari Cave :**

This cave is little distant from the Mandakini kund. It is a like a masonry building and is fairly good.

#### **Revti Kund :**

Named after a star, Revti Kund is a small tank near Mandakini kund. It is a perennial source of water.

#### **Bhrigu Ashram :**

The hermitage of Sage Bhrigu. famous for his daring trial of Lord Vishnu's courteous humility by inflicting a kick in the Lord's Chest, is a peaceful place about a mile from Bhart-Hari cave. Some sages live here and a Shiv temple, Gaumukh kund, statue of *Brahma* (the Creator) etc. are here.

The four famous temples of Achalgarh are as given hereunder.

#### **Chaumukhaji Temple :**

This is a two-storeyed temple and each part is

enshrined with four-faced statues in the main sanctum. In the main portico, life scenes of Jain tirthankars and Jain places of pilgrims have been depicted in pictures. The statues of the temple, 14 in all and built of *Ashtadhatu* (8 metal) alloy are massive said to weigh some 580 qts in all. Four statues in each storey are arranged to give iso-images seen from anywhere. Extensive view of Abu and surroundings from the upper storey is worth a gaze.

### **Adishwar Temple :**

It was built by a millionaire Shanti Dasji Doshi of Ahmedabad. A Saraswati statue and some other Jain statues are also therein.

### **Kunthu Nath Temple :**

The main sanctum is enshrined with an alloy statue of Lord Kunthu Nath and besides, 174 other statues are also there, enshrined at various occasions from time to time. Brass statues of three armored knights rode on horses are worth seeing.

### **Shanti Nath Temple :**

This temple is also called Kumarpal temple. It is a very ancient temple enshrined with the sixteenth tirthankar Shanti Nathji. It is a little away from the Achalgarh and on a mound.

### **Oria :**

This village is 3 km North of Achalgarh (8 km from Abu) and is on way to Guru Shikhar. Some

Jain and Hindu temple are here. The famous Kankhalishwar temples bears the inscription for its repairs having got done by a sage Kedar in the times of the Parmar King Dharavarsh around the years 1208-1209 A. D. Many more ancient temples are all around here.

### Guru Shikhar :

The loftiest peak Mount Abu is Guru Shikhar (5653 ft. above m. s. l.) is some 15 km from Abu. Here is the temple of Swami Dattatreya, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and peak is called Guru Shikhar after him as Guru Dattatreya had dignified this place and his footprints are sanctified here in a rock in a cave. Footprints of Swami Ramanand are also there who enshrined the statue in Raghu Nathji temple in Abu. There is a giant bell in the Dattatreya temple, its toll is heard upto long distances from here. The cold, sweeping breeze in adjunct with the panoramic view of the natural scenery and dense distant forests fill in the visitors a throbbing thrill.

Some more places around Abu Road for a determined visitor are; Vasthanji having a 18' X 12' X 6' idol of Lord Vishnu in a cave in the vicinity of beautiful surrounding; Hrishikesh, a Vaishnav temple built by King Ambrish contemporary of Lord Krishna; Moonghala a village some 6 km from Abu Road having a famous 'Mudgaleshwar' Shiv temple and also a large Jain temple, and in Chandravati, 6 km in the South-east of Abu Road are ruins of a famous old city, destroyed somewhere in the years commencing around 1400 A. D. probably as a result of recurrent attacks on it for centuries together for want of its treasures.

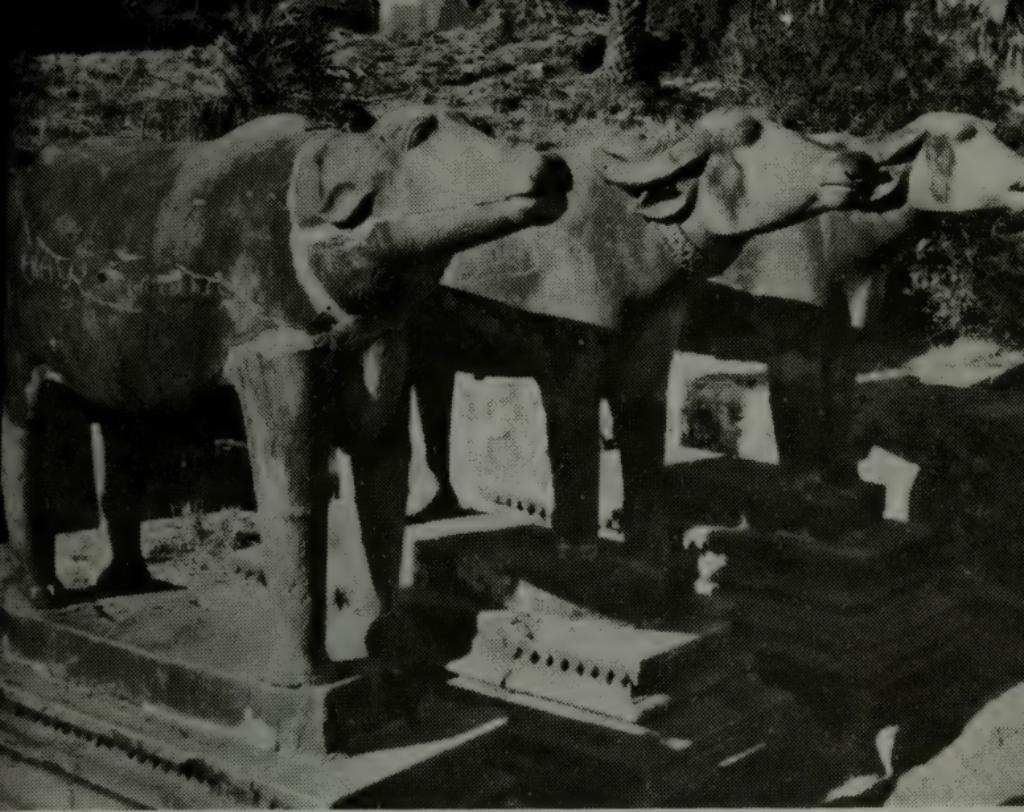
# AMBAJI

Ambaji is the famous place of pilgrim of various sects of the Hindu Society. It is 23 km from Abu Road Rail station. The place is known for its famous ancient and much regarded sacred temple of Ambaji, the Mother Supreme. Besides this, several other temples of Mother and Lord Shiv are of religious significance.

## Shri Ambaji Temple

Ambaji, variously called as Bhawani, Bhagwati, Jagdamba (Mother of the Universe), and Durga, is the tutelary deity of the entire Gujarat State. Moreover, devotees of the Mother are throughout and abroad India. Of the few important *Sthans* (Abodes) of Ma (the mother), a great many are in Gujarat and Ambaji is one of them. The deity has several forms, popularly Lakshmi, Saraswati, Mahakali, Sawitri, Katyayini, Narayani, Bahucharaa, Chamunda etc; but the form of Ambaji is the Supreme or most regarded of all. The worship and offerings synchronize for two *Navratri* (nine-night) period in a year *Chaitra* (March-April) and the more important *Ashwin* (October). These are the two periods when waves of devotees pour in at the Ambaji temple for their offerings, rituals, boons, worships etc.

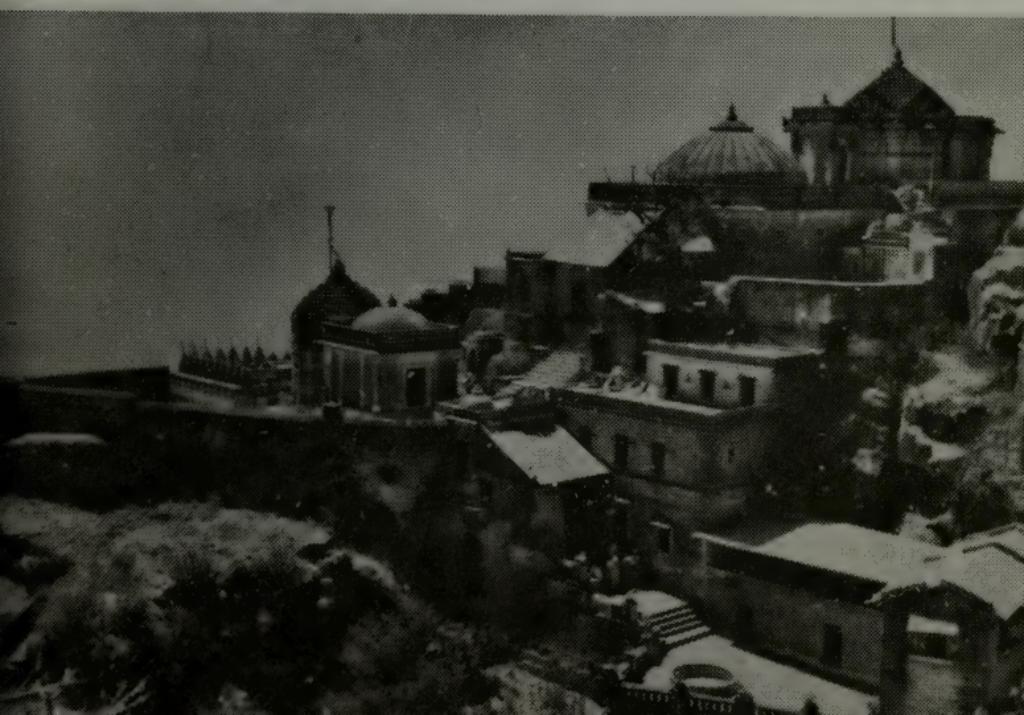
The temple of Ambaji is in square lay out, encircled by strong walls and with glass mosaic work. The



तीन पाड़े अचलगढ़  
Three Buffalos

माउन्ट आबू  
Mount Abu

अचलगढ़ मन्दिर  
Achalgarh





सूर्यस्त दृश्य  
Sunset View

माउन्ट आबू ↑  
Mount Abu

अम्बाजी का मन्दिर  
↓ Ambaji Temple



idol of goddess Ambaji is life size, seated with one leg folded up on Her carrier Lion. The temple is very ancient, known to be famous even in the 7th century. A fair is held on every full noon day here besides a large one in *Navratri*.

A beautiful tank Mansarovar is nearby.

### Kumbhariyaji :

It is a block of five Jain temples some 3 km from Ambaji in the East. The name Kumbhariyaji is after the old village Kumbharna. It is said that Vimal Shah builder of Vimal Vasahi temple of Dilwara built these temples with a total of some 360 temples here, but without first seeking blessings or consent of Ambaji, his tutelary deity. The legend is that goddess Ambaji, ruined all the 364 temples but these five as a mark of her wrath in the form of earthquake. Dilwara temple was built at present site by Vimal Shah after seeking blessings of Ambaji. This is also indicated by the fact that Ambaji pagoda in Dilwara temple is said to be even older than the main temple and may probably have been made by Vimal Shah first of all.

### Koteshwar Mahadeo :

3 Km. further to Kumbhariyaji is this Shiv temple. A small tank is nearby, fed by a perennial flow of water from a *Goumukh*.

### Gabbar Mata :

This temple of goddess is on a hill few km from Ambaji. A bird's eye view of surroundings from this place is beautiful.

# **MOUNT ABU**

**at a glance**

- Location :** 24.36'N Longitude,  
72.43'E Latitude
- Area :** 25 Sq km
- Population :** 9821 (1971 census)
- Height :** 1219 metres (above m. s. l.)
- Tourist Season :** Summers :  
Mid March to End of June  
Mid September to Mid November
- Climate :** Temperature :  
Summers-Mean Max. 32.8°C  
" Min. 16.8°C  
Winters - Mean Max. 25.4°C  
" Min. 7.3°C
- Precipitation :** 125 cm annual
- Clothing :** Summers : Light cotton  
Winters : Woollens
- Languages spoken :** Hindi-Gujarati-English
- Transport :** Train up to Abu Road Railway Station. Buses and Taxis to and from all important places available.
- Clubs :** Rajputana Club, Abu Club.  
Lions Club
- Accommodation :** Several tourists Rest Houses and Dak Bungalows, Hotels, Government cottages, Circuit House, Inns etc. (See list). Visitors should confirm reservations in the season.

<b>Shopping</b>	: Jewellery, Gujarati print Sarees Handicrafts and miniatures (Shopping centres appended).
<b>BanKs</b>	: State Bank of India TF 36 Sirohi Distt. Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd. TF 92
<b>Conducted Sight Seeing</b>	: From Bus Stand at 9 A. M. and Seeing : 12.00 Noon by State Roadways, for all important places.
<b>Entertainment</b>	: Movies : Golden Sun TF 73 Clubs : Abu Club, Rajputan Club Boating : Nakhi Lake, Booking from Gandhi Garden on banks
	Riding : Horses available on hire.
<b>Hospital</b>	: Government Hospital TF 34 Amar Jyoti Clinic & Nursing Home TF 109
<b>Information Centre</b>	: Tourist Information Centre (Govt. of Rajasthan) Opp. Bus Stand TF 51
<b>Restaurants</b>	: Bharatiya Lodge Jain Bhojanalaya Janata Restaurant TF 113 Madras Cafe Mahalakshmi Jain Bhojanalaya Quality Punjab Hotel Raj Restaurant Ramakant Bhojanshala Shriniwas Lodge New Abu Refreshment Room TF 56

**Service Clubs :** Lions International meets every I & III Sunday at Hotel Hilltone

**Liquors :** Drinks prohibited. Special permit obtainable from the Tourist Officer at prescribed fee.

## SHOPPING

1. Arbuda Jewellers
2. Bhartiya Darshan Emporium
3. Bhartiya Kala Bhandar
4. Bhartiya Saree Bhandar
5. Chacha Museum
6. Fair Price Emporium
7. Gramodhyog Khadi Haat
8. Gujrat Emporium
9. Gujrat Saree Stores
10. Jalaram Novelty Ghar
11. Meena Bazar Saree & Arts Emporium
12. Rajasthan Emporium
13. Rajasthan Govt. Handicraft Emporium
14. Saurashtra Emporium



## ACCOMMODATION

**State and Central Government accommodations :**

- |                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Bharat Sevak Samaj       | TF 25 |
| 2. Circuit House            |       |
| 3. C. P. W. D. Dak Bungalow |       |

4.	Dholpur House Dak Bungalow	TF 64
5.	Forest Rest House	
6.	Government Cottage	TF 72
7.	Gujrat State Circuit House	TF 75
8.	Holiday Home	TF 77
9.	M. E. S. Inspection Bungalow	
10.	Railway Retiring Rooms	TF 18
11.	Rock View	
12.	State Roadways Retiring Rooms	TF 20
13.	Tourist Bungalow	TF 69
14.	Youth Hostel (For Young Boys and Girls only)	

<b>Hotels :</b>	1.	Ashok Hotel	TF 59
	2.	Bhartiya Lodge	TF 61
	3.	Giri Raj	TF 106
	4.	Gujarati Lodge	
	5.	Gujarat Hotel	TF 146
	6.	Hotel Hiltone	TF 137
	7.	Hotel Vrindavan	TF 47
	8.	Jaipur House Hotel	TF 76
	9.	Mount Hotel	TF 55
	10.	Navjeevan Lodge	TF 53
	11.	Palace Hotel	TF 21
	12.	Rajendra Hotel	TF 74
	13.	Saraswati Lodging & Boarding House	TF 7
	14.	Shanti Sadan Guest House	TF 1

Others are Arbud Lodge, Nakhi Lodge, Ganpati Lodge, Bhartiya New Guest House, Bhartiya Niwas, Dilwara Dak Bungalow, Limbdi Hotel, Surya Darshan Hotel, Vande Matram.

- Inns :**
1. Dhuleshwar Mandir Dharamshala
  2. Jain Dharamshala, Dilwara
  3. Raghunathji Dharamshala

**Others :** Several Private residential accommodations on Paying - Guest pattern are usually available during the season.

## TRANSPORT

Nearest Aerodrom : Ahmedabad

**Railway :** Abu Road Railway station (29 km. from Mt. Abu) is on metre gauge line of Western Railway Ahmedabad-Delhi route.

Abu Road to Ahmedabad (186 km.) Bombay (678 km) Delhi (748 km), Jaipur (440 km), Calcutta (via Delhi) 2186 km. Jodhpur (198 km.).

**Roads :** Connected by Road to Major cities and tourist places Regular bus services for Ranakpur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Sirohi etc. Taxis also available to and from Abu Road Station for Mount Abu and places around.

## IMPORTANT ROAD DISTANCES

Route	Miles	km.
<b>Delhi(-Jaipur-) Mt. Abu</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>761</b>
Jaipur (via Kotputli)	160	256
Ajmer	80	128
Beawar	33	52
Pali	71	114
Sirohi	69	110
Abu Road	45	72
Mount Abu	18	29

<b>Agra-Mount Abu</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>738</b>
Bharatpur	35	56
Jaipur	110	176
Mount Abu	316	506
<b>Bombay . Mt. Abu</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>800</b>
Baroda	273	437
Ahmedabad	74	119
Mehsana	47	75
Abu Road	88	140
Mount Abu	18	29
<b>Jodhpur-Mount Abu</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>264</b>
Pali	44	70
Sande Rao	33	53
Sirohi	36	57
Pindwara	14	23
Mount Abu	38	61
<b>BiKaner-Mount Abu</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>513</b>
Nagpur	71	114
Jodhpur	84	135
Mount Abu	165	264
<b>Udaipur-Ranakpur-M.Abu</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>243</b>
Eklingji	13	20
Nathdwara	17	28
Kankroli	10	16
Charbhujaji	30	48
Desuri	11	18
Sadri	10	16

Ranakpur	7	11
Sadri	7	10
Phalna	14	23
Sande Rao	7	11
Sirohi	36	58
Pindwara	14	23
Mount Abu	38	61
<b>Ambaji-Mount Abu</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>
Abu Road	14	23
Mount Abu	18	29

## Timings of Important Bus Routes

(Subject to variations; please confirm current timings from Roadways Enquiry office)

### Mount Abu - Abu Road

(Hours) 6.00, 7.30, 7.00, 8.45 9.45, 11.15, 13.00  
13.30, 14.30, 15.15, 17.15, 18.30, 18.00,  
20.30.

### Mount Abu - Dilwara

8.45, 10.00, 10.00, 12.00, 14.00, 16.00

### Mount Abu - Achalgarh (Via Dilwara)

10.00, 14.00

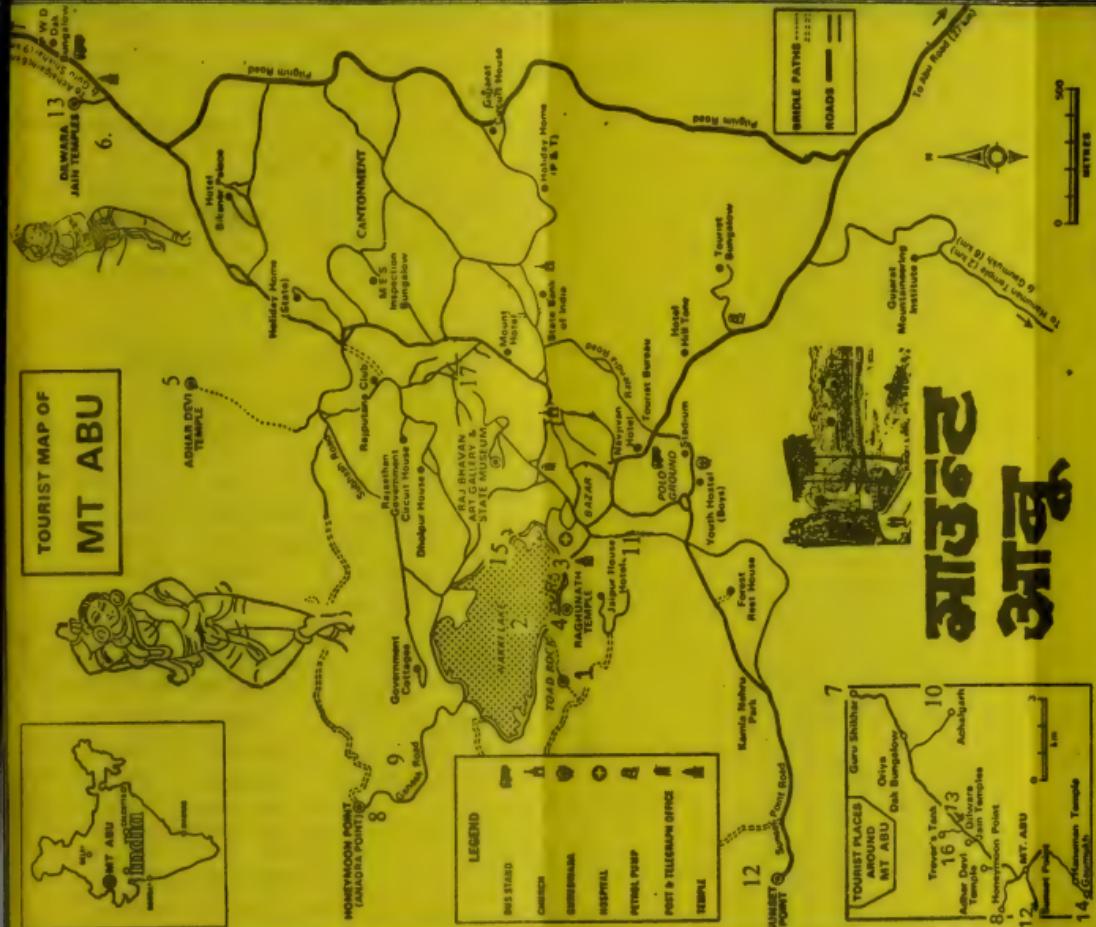
### Mount Abu - Ambaji

7.00, 11.15, 13.30, 14.30

### Mount Abu - Ahmedabad

6.00, (via Palanpur), 7.00 (Via Ambaji)  
13.00 Luxury (Via Palanpur, 14.30 (Via Ambaji)

## TOURIST MAP OF MT ABU



# માત્રાંદુર

1. Toad Rock 2. Nakhi Lake 3. Gandhi Park 4. Raghunath Temple 5. Adhar Devi 6. Kunwari Kanya Temple 7. Gurukul 8. Honey Moon Point 9. Ganesh Hill 10. Achalgarh 11. Bramha Kumari Vidhyalya 12. Sunset Point 13. Dilwara Temple 14. Gaumukh Kund 15. Municipal Park 16. Traver Lake 17. Shankar Math.



**Dilwara - Mount Abu - Abu Road - Ranakpur**

6.00

**Mount Abu - Udaipur**

8.45, 20.30

**Mount-Abu - Jaipur**

6.00 P.M.

Contact Roadways office for Latest timings,  
Reservation and Enquiries. Several additional buses ply  
during seasons.



## **RAILWAY TIME TABLE**

**ABU ROAD RAILWAY STATION**

<b>Train No.</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Dep.</b>
3 UP Exp.	Delhi	Ahmedabad	4.32	4.57
41 UP Local	Abu Road	Mehsana	--	5.45
6 Dn. Local	Ahmedabad	Agra Fort	--	7.08
19 Up Local	Delhi	Mehsana	10.07	10.40
31 Up J. Exp.	Delhi	Ahmedabad	11.54	12.16
32 Dn. J. Exp.	Ahmedabad	Delhi	11.15	11.37
2 Dn. Mail	Ahmedabad	Delhi	13.01	13.21
20 Dn. Local	Mehsana	Delhi	14.34	15.09
1 Up. Mail	Delhi	Ahmedabad	15.29	15.50
42 Dn. Local	Mehsana	Abu Road	20.00	--
5 Up. Local	Agra fort	Ahmedabad	20 16	20,43
4 Dn. Exp.	Ahmedabad	Delhi	22.50	23.14

**Note :-** Ticket, Reservation & Parcel Service available  
at Western Railway Out - Agency at Mount  
Abu. Trinings Subject to Change.

# **Plan your Visit at Mount Abu**

## **When you stay for a day, visit :**

**Morning : Guru Shikar, Achalgarh, Dilwara temple, Kunwari Kanya & Adhar Devi temples.**

**Evening : Sun set point, Nakhi lake (boating).**

## **When the stay is for two days :**

**First day : Scheduled as above.**

**Second day : Morning : Gau Mukh, Afternoon : Toad Rock, Anadra Point, Nakhi Lake (boating) & Shopping**

## **Well, If You Stay for 3 days :**

**First day : Morning : Achalgarh & Gnru Shikhar Evening : Sun Set Point, Nakhi Lake (boating)**

**Second day : Gau Mukh Kund; After Noon-Dilwara Temple, Kunwari Kanya Temple Evening : Sun Set Point.**

**Third day : Morning - Raghunath Temple, Toad Rock, Anadra Point, Adhar Devi Temple, Evening : Shopping**

**Contact : Tourist Officer for making your Mount Abu visit a GRAND TIME of your Life.**

## **IMPORTANT PILGRIMS AND TRAVELS FROM Mt. Abu**

### **Ambaji :**

Several buses ply from Mount Abu to Ambaji, 51 km. Please see text for details of Ambaji, Gabbar Mata and Kumbhariaji to be seen here.

**Jeerawala Parshwanath** : The famous Jain temple of Jeerawala Parshwanath is 74 km. from Mount Abu. It is said to be of period 200 years B. C.

**Moongthala** : 12th Century Jain temple and Mudgaleshwar Mahadeo temple are 37km. from Mount Abu.

**Bamanvadji and Sirohi** : Bamanvadji is 72 km from Mount Abu where 2100 years old temple of Lord Mahaveer is there. 10 km. further is Sirohi where 16 Jain temples are worth seeing. Sarneshwar Mahadeo temple is 3 km. from Sirohi. Four Jain temples are worth seeing at Meerpur (Hamirgarh), 16km. from Sirohi and also Kolargarh, 4 km. from Sirohi.

**Nakoda Parshwanath Jain Temple** : Balotra Junction is 342 km. from Abu Road. Nakoda is 10 km. from Balotra. A renowned Nakoda Bhairav statue is also worth seeing here.

**Gorwar Panch Tirthi** : The composite pilgrimage of Jain Panchtirthi is a 77 km. travel for the following places from Sadri, a small town at 190 km. from Mount Abu :-

1. Muchhala Mahavirji
2. Nadlai
3. Nodal
4. Varkana Parshwanathji
5. Ranakpur

#### **Udaipur :**

Following Important pilgrims mark Udaipur as indispensable place of visit for the pilgrims from Mount Abu :-

**Charbhujaji** : Here is a famous Charbhujaji temple of Vaishnavs.

**Kankroli** : The famous Dwarikadheesh Temple, Rajsamand or Raisagar lake, Nau Chauki on bund and Dayal Shah Jain temple are to be seen here.

**Nathdwara** : The all India fame Vaishnav place of pilgrim due to the famous Shri Nathji temple of Lord Krishna which commands a large number of devotees and offerings all round the year, Also paintings and silver-ware with ornamental works embedded on them.

**Kailaspuri** : The famous temple of Ekling Maha-deo. Jain temple of Lord Adbhutji, Ruins of Nagda.

**Udaipur** : The city of Lakes and Palaces. well known as the Paradise of Rajasthan and better known as the Venice of the East is a place of major attraction of tourists and pilgrims on account of several important places.

## Important Summits of Mt. Abu

Name	Height (ft above m. s. l.)
Guru Shikhar	5653
Park hill	4562
Bhigolia hill	4553
Palanpur Point	4493
Adhar Devi	4269
Craig's Point	4208
Toad Rock	4000
Hanuman Ashram (Gaumukh)	3966
Dilwara	3900
Sunset point	3880
Bus Stand	3800
Nakhi Lake	3790
Chhipa Beri	1967



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